

TO ERADICATE THE SPOILS SYSTEM

President Taft Explains Motive in Placing Fourth Class Postmasters Under Civil Service, in Message to Congress—Declares Critics of the Order on Floor of House Were Telling "Untruths—Move Was in No Sense Political."

Washington, Dec. 19.—President Taft today gave congress his opinion of the charge that he had been playing politics in his recent executive order putting thirty-six thousand fourth class postmasters under the civil service. The president made the counter charge that his accusers on the floor of the house were telling "untruths" and declared that he deeply regretted the failure of congress to pass legislation which practically would end the "spoils system." Criticism has been made of this order on the ground that the motive was political, said the president. "Nothing could be further from the truth. The order was made before election and in the interest of efficient public service."

To Take Offices Out of Politics.
I have several times requested congress to give me authority to put first, second and third class postmasters and all other local officers, including internal revenue officers, customs officers, United States marshals and the local agents of the other departments under the classification of the civil service law, by taking away the necessity for confirming such appointments by the senate. I deeply regret the failure of congress to follow these recommendations. The change would have taken out of politics practically every local officer and would have entirely cured the evils growing out of what, under the present law, must always remain a remnant of the spoils system."

Cabinet Members to Sit in Congress.
The president's advice to congress was contained in his third message of the year sent in today. It was devoted largely to a review of the accomplishments of several government departments not touched in previous messages and to recommendations for legislation.

The president advocated legislation which would permit members of the cabinet to sit in either house of congress with the right to enter into debate and answer questions, but without vote.

Readjustment of Railway Mail Rates.
The adoption of the postmaster general's plan for a readjustment of compensation to railways carrying mails, especially in view of the conditions which will exist under the parcel post law.

A revision of the land laws to secure proper conservation and at the same time assure prompt disposition of land that should be turned over to private ownership. Legislation affecting Alaska which would provide for leases of coal lands and, in respect to mining claims, the disposition of oil, phosphate and potash lands in the United States.

**Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA**

A Pure Food Tribunal of Appeal.
An act of congress which would legalize a court authorized to review decisions on the pure food law such as are now made by the Rensselaer board. In this connection the president approved the creation of the Rensselaer board by former President Roosevelt, but said that the time had come for congress to recognize the necessity for "a tribunal of appeal" in pure food cases. "While we are struggling to suppress an evil of great proportions like that of impure food," said the president, "we must provide the machinery in the law itself to prevent its becoming an instrument of oppression, and we ought to enable those whose business is threatened with annihilation to have some tribunal and some form of appeal in which they have a complete day in court."

Government Building at Panama Exposition.

The president closed his message with a recommendation that congress appropriate for a government building at the Panama-Pacific international exposition at San Francisco and for the beautification of Washington.

**SPLIT IN RUSSIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH.**
Eight Thousand Communicants Follow Lead of Monk Heliodorus.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 19.—A split in the Russian orthodox church is threatened through the unroofing of the monk Heliodorus by the holy synod. Heliodorus caused a sensation a few days ago by announcing his withdrawal from the orthodox church. Now 8,000 of his followers have notified the holy synod of their intention to quit the orthodox church and of suing the holy synod for \$250,000 in the event of the synod turning the church of Heliodorus at Tseritsyn, in the province of Saratov, which was built by the people, into a convent or a hospital.

The disciples of Heliodorus today sent a telegram to the Octoberist members of the duman demanding a public trial for Heliodorus and denouncing the "profanation of the house of God" by the police who they entered the church at Tseritsyn.

Governor Won't Welcome Bryan.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 19.—Governor Mann, a democrat, declined today to assist in welcoming William Jennings Bryan to a luncheon at a business men's club. The governor said etiquette first required Mr. Bryan to call upon the governor.

**PRESIDENT DEPARTS
ON TRIP TO PANAMA.**
Left for Key West Last Night, Will Sail Saturday.

Washington, Dec. 19.—President Taft left at 10:30 o'clock tonight over the Atlantic Coast Line railway for Key West, Fla., to sail Saturday on the dreadnought Arkansas for Colon. After a three days' inspection of the Panama canal, the president will return to Key West. He is due in Washington again Dec. 31.

The president left suffering from a slight, persistent cold. The trip south, it was believed, would cure it, although it already has shown signs of yielding to treatment. Before going aboard his private car the president attended the cabinet dinner given by Secretary of State Knox.

Mrs. Taft, Charles Taft, their younger son, the secretary to the president and Mrs. Hill, the assistant secretary of the navy and Mrs. Beekman Winthrop, Major Thomas L. Rhoads, U. S. A., and Lieutenant Commander J. N. Timmons, U. S. N., aides to the president, three secret service men and a White House stenographer comprised the official party which will board the Arkansas. Two railroad officials and half a dozen newspapermen who accompanied the president will be quartered on the battleship Delaware, designated to act as convoy on the voyage to and from the isthmus.

En route to Key West the president's train will stop at Jacksonville and Miami, Fla. In Jacksonville the president will attend a reception and make a speech and at Miami he will talk to citizens from the rear platform of his car. He will deliver another address in Key West before he boards the Arkansas.

**WANTS TO LIVE IN A
CELL FOR THREE YEARS.**

Youth Makes Odd Request of a Kansas City Judge.

Kansas City, Dec. 19.—In order that he might learn the spelling and definition of all the words in an unabridged dictionary, S. Cruso, who styles himself a "bright and refined young man," 24 years old, wrote Judge E. W. Bland of the South Side municipal court asking that he be allowed to enter a prison cell for three years.

"In case you should reject my application on the grounds that you have no right to convict an honest man without a charge against him," wrote Cruso, "I am willing to commit something that will give jurisdiction."

The writer said he had no ambition to master the dictionary so that he could pass examination before learned English professors.

**ARCHBOLD TO TESTIFY
AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.**

Senate Adjourns Until Jan. 3 After Three Hours' Session.

Washington, Dec. 19.—After hearing several witnesses for the defense, the senate, sitting as a court of impeachment, in the trial of Judge R. W. Archbald of the commonwealth court, today adjourned for the holidays, to convene again Jan. 3, when Judge Archbald will take the stand in his own behalf.

The court session today lasted a little over three hours, during which counsel for Judge Archbald made an effort to conclude examining witnesses for the defense. When it became evident that this could not be accomplished, the court, on motion of Senator Gallinger, adjourned.

**A CONFERENCE ON
IMMIGRATION BILL.**

Lodge Moves to Disagree With the House Amendments.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The "literary test" immigration bill, which passed the house yesterday and was brought to the senate last night for its concurrence, was today sent to conference. Senator Lodge of Massachusetts called the measure to the attention of the senate and moved that the senate disagree to the house amendments. A conference was asked for and Senator Gallinger appointed Senators Dillingham, Lodge and Smith of South Carolina as conferees on the part of the senate.

**AWARDED \$3,000 FOR
DEATH OF HIS SON.**

Lad Was Killed by Trolley at New Haven While Coasting.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 18.—A jury in the superior court this afternoon awarded a verdict of \$3,000 to Christian C. Rasman, administrator, in his suit against the Shore Line Trolley company for the death of his son, Charles, who was killed in Guilford on Lincoln's birthday last. The boy was coasting down what is known as Long Hill when he was struck by a trolley car and instantly killed. The jury was out four hours.

**FIRE AT SPRINGFIELD
CAUSES \$300,000 LOSS.**

Two Large Buildings of Wason Car Company Destroyed.

Springfield, Mass., Dec. 19.—Damage estimated by company officials at \$300,000 was caused tonight by a fire that threatened to sweep the extensive plant of the Wason Car company here. Two buildings 100 feet long and two stories high, filled with valuable hardwood lumber, were destroyed with their contents. A high wind swept the flames toward the two factories near by. These caught fire several times but were not seriously damaged.

**CONFERENCE TODAY ON
DEMANDS OF FIREMEN**

Committees of Managers and Brotherhood to Meet.

New York, Dec. 19.—The joint conference between committees of managers of the eastern railroads and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, scheduled for this afternoon, was postponed until tomorrow. It is expected that the managers will reply then to the modified demands of the firemen for increased pay, better working conditions and the placing of two firemen on 2,000 of the largest locomotives in the territory.

Steamship Arrivals.

Azores, Dec. 18.—Arrived, steamer Azores, Boston for Naples.
Rotterdam, Dec. 18.—Arrived, steamer Uranium, New York.
Copenhagen, Dec. 18.—Arrived, steamer Oscar II, New York.
Naples, Dec. 19.—Arrived, steamer Venezia, New York via Providence.
19th, Duca D'Aosta, New York.
Glasgow, Dec. 19.—Arrived, steamer Numidian, Boston.
Gibraltar, Dec. 19.—Arrived, steamer Cincinnati, New York for Naples.

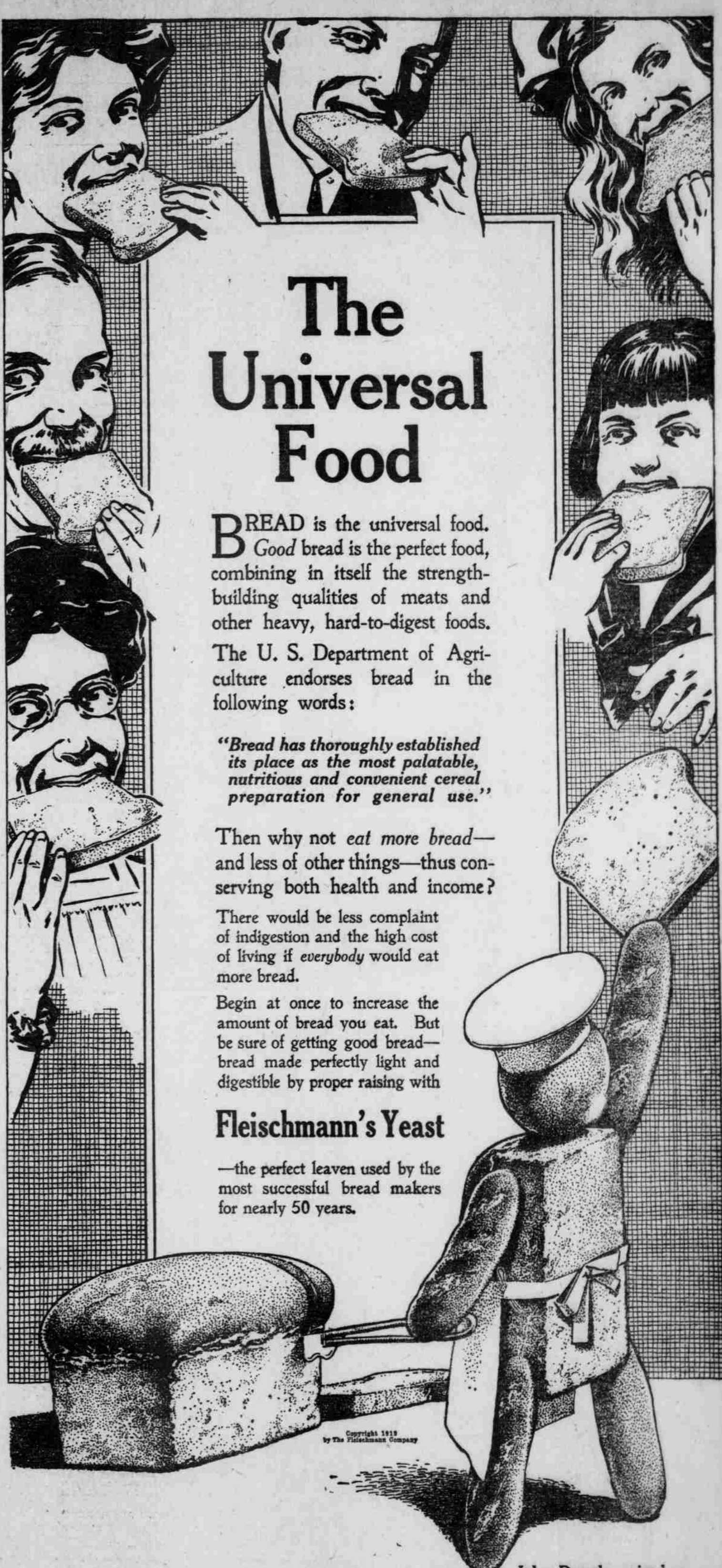
Chester Lawrence's Body Found.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 19.—The body of Chester Lawrence, newspaperman and companion of Horace Kearnay last Saturday in the hydro-aeroplane flight which brought death to both men, was recovered from the sea today.

Steamers Reported by Wireless.

Fastnet, Dec. 19.—Steamer Cedric, New York for Queensland and Liverpool, 224 miles west at 8 a. m. Due Queenstown, 2.30 a. m. Friday.

**Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA**



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WILL APPEAL AT ONCE TO THE SUPREME COURT.

Harriman Officials and Attorney General at Variance.

New York, Dec. 18.—Robert S. Lovett, chairman of the executive committee of the Union and Southern Pacific railroads, announced this afternoon that he had arranged with Attorney General Wickersham to appeal at once to the United States supreme court for instructions in working out the dissolution plan of the railroads. Mr. Wickersham, the announcement continued, has refused to approve any plan involving the distribution of Southern Pacific stock owned by the Union Pacific.

In support of his contention that Southern Pacific stock be distributed among Union Pacific shareholders, Judge Lovett cites the Northern Securities case and those of Standard Oil and American Tobacco companies. These, he asserts, are fundamentally comparable with the Union Pacific-Southern Pacific dissolution.

The course adopted by the Harriman officials is taken in the interest of all parties, Judge Lovett says, and to the hope that the decree of the supreme court may be facilitated.

DEMOCRATS PREVENT EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Manoeuvre to Avoid Confirmation of Taft's Appointments.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The long-threatened fight in the senate over the confirmation of President Taft's nominations for office broke on the floor of the senate today, and in the first skirmish the democrats were successful in preventing an executive session demanded by Senator Culom (republican). The result of the encounter was uncertain tonight, but the republicans threaten to continue efforts tomorrow to secure an executive session for action on the scores of appointments now pending. A democratic caucus early in the day, in which the democrats agreed to permit the confirmation only of army and navy appointments, paved the way for the fight on the floor. In the midst of a speech by Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia, Senator Culom, representing the republican forces who refused to accept the ultimatum of the democrats, made a demand for an executive session.

The democrats filibustered against the motion, rushing out into the cloak rooms on the rollcall to break a quo-

rum, and succeeded in delaying action until the court of impeachment convened for the Archbald trial. Republicans leaders said tonight they would continue to demand that an executive session be treated in executive session on their merits.

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